

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

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INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SCA-01 VO-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL SYDNEY IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AS, NZ, SREF

SUBJECT: CORAL SEA GUESTS: PUBLIC AFFAIRS HANDLING
OF VIET-NAM REFUGEE QUESTION

REF: A. WELLINGTON 1197

B. CANBERRA 2660

1. WE HAVE PROVIDED SECRETARY WEINBERGER WITH FOLLOWING
SUGGESTED RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON VIET-NAM REFUGEES
INCLUDING SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF RESETTLEMENT REFERRED
TO PARA ONE REF A. QUOTE:

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-- THE PRESIDENT HAS AUTHORIZED FOR ENTRY INTO THE
UNITED STATES UP TO 125,000 VIETNAMESE AND 5000 CAMBODIANS
OF WHICH UP TO 75,000 COULD BE DEPENDENTS OF AMERICAN
CITIZENS OR VIETNAMESE PERMANENT RESIDENTS.

-- WE DO NOT YET HAVE A FIRM ESTIMATE OF HOW MANY VIETNAMESE WILL SETTLE IN OTHER COUNTRIES OR COME TO THE UNITED STATES.

-- WE HAVE TWO PROBLEMS:

- 1) REUNITING VIETNAMESE WITH THEIR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND SPONSORS; AND
- 2) FINDING PERMANENT HOMES FOR THE REMAINING VIETNAMESE.

-- INEVITABLY THERE WILL BE PROBLEMS OF ADJUSTMENT, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RESETTLEMENT WILL BE MINIMAL. THOSE AMERICANS WITH VIETNAMESE DEPENDENTS ARE WIDELY DISPERSED. WE EXPECT THAT FEDERAL FUNDING WILL BE ADEQUATE. FOR THOSE COMING WITHOUT SPONSORS, OUR POLICY IS TO SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY EQUITABLY AMONG ALL REGIONS OF THE UNITED STATES. THE VIETNAMESE COMING TO THE UNITED STATES ARE PREDOMINANTLY A SKILLED GROUP. MANY HAVE ENGLISH CAPABILITY.

-- RESETTLEMENT WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHICH HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN MOST EFFECTIVE IN SETTLING REFUGEES FROM ABROAD. WE ARE ASSURED BY THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES THAT ALL REFUGEES WE ARE PRESENTLY PLANNING FOR CAN BE EXPEDITIOUSLY RESETTLED. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WILL AVOID RESETTLEMENT IN ECONOMICALLY HARD-HIT AREAS.

-- EACH YEAR ABOUT 400,000 NEW IMMIGRANTS COME TO THE US. THE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIANS INVOLVED -- UP TO 130,000 AT MOST, BUT MORE LIKELY HALF OF THAT -- SHOULD NOT BE A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM. BEAR IN MIND THAT WE TOOK IN 500,000 CUBANS AND ABOUT 50,000 HUNGARIANS WITH NO MAJOR DISLOCATIONS. END QUOTE.

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2. IN MAKING WIRELESS FILE AVAILABLE TO SECRETARY DURING HIS VISIT, ADDRESSEES SHOULD BRING TO HIS ATTENTION MATERIAL ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND USG STATEMENTS ON RESETTLEMENT OF VIET-NAM REFUGEES.

3. IN FURTHER RESPONSE PARA ONE REF A, SECRETARY WILL BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS ON BUSING AND RECESSION PROBLEMS. KISSINGER

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